

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for a management application accessing a database of interest,
2 the method comprising:
 - 3 said management application creating a first object for indicating a
4 unique identifier identifying a data item wherein said creating said first object
5 uses a first SET command;
 - 6 an agent storing said unique identifier in a restricted intermediate
7 database;
 - 8 said management application creating a second object for indicating a
9 data type for said data item, said creating said second object including use of a
10 second SET command;
 - 11 said agent storing said data type in said restricted intermediate database;
 - 12 said management application creating a third object for indicating an
13 action to be performed on said data item with respect to the database of
14 interest, said creating said third object including use of a third SET command;
 - 15 said agent issuing an action command to perform said action, wherein
16 said agent uses said stored unique identifier, said stored data type, and said
17 action;
 - 18 said agent receiving a response to said action command from the
19 database of interest; and
 - 20 said agent sending said response to said management application.
- 1 2. The method recited in claim 1, wherein
2 said response indicating success is said data item.
- 1 3. The method recited in claim 1, wherein
2 said response indicating failure is an error message.

1 4. The method recited in claim 1, wherein
2 said action is a returning to said management application of said data
3 item from the database of interest, and
4 said action command is a GET command.

1 5. The method recited in claim 1, wherein
2 said action is a storing of said data item in the database of interest;
3 said action command is a fourth SET command; and
4 further comprising:
5 said management application creating a fourth object for indicating an
6 actual value of said data item to be stored in the database of interest.

1 6. The method recited in claim 1, wherein
2 the database of interest is a restricted database.

1 7. An apparatus for accessing a database of interest, the apparatus
2 comprising:
3 a first network device;
4 a second network device operatively coupled to said first network
5 device; and
6 an agent software program programmed to monitor said second network
7 device;
8 wherein said first network device is
9 programmed to create a first object for indicating a unique
10 identifier for a data item using a first SET command,
11 programmed to create a second object for indicating a data type
12 for said data item using a second SET command,
13 programmed to create a third object, using a third SET command,
14 for indicating an action to be performed on said data item

15 with respect to the database of interest, and
16 programmed to receive a response to an action command to
17 perform said action; and
18 wherein said agent is further
19 programmed to store said unique identifier in a restricted
20 intermediate database,
21 programmed to store said data type in said restricted intermediate
22 database,
23 programmed to issue said action command using said stored
24 unique identifier, said stored data type, and said action,
25 programmed to receive said response, and
26 programmed to send said response to said first network device.

1 8. The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein
2 said action is a returning to said first network device of said data item
3 from the database of interest,
4 said action command is a GET command, and
5 said response is said data item.

1 9. The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein
2 said action is a storing of said data item in the database of interest,
3 said action command is a fourth SET command, and
4 said first network device is further programmed to create a fourth object
5 for indicating an actual value of said data item to be stored in the database of
6 interest.

1 10. The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein
2 said first network device is a network management station.

1 11. The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein
2 said second network device is a monitored device.

1 12. The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein
2 said response indicating success is said data item.

1 13. The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein
2 said response indicating failure is an error message.

1 14. The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein
2 the database of interest is a restricted database.

1 15. An apparatus for accessing a database of interest, the apparatus
2 comprising:

3 a network management station;
4 a device operatively coupled to said network management station; and
5 an agent software program programmed to monitor said device;
6 wherein said network management station is
7 programmed to create a first object for indicating a unique
8 identifier identifying a data item using a first SET
9 command,

10 programmed to create a second object for indicating a data type
11 for said data item using a second SET command,

12 programmed to create a third object, using a third SET command,
13 for indicating an action to be performed on said data item
14 with respect to the database of interest, and

15 programmed to receive a response to said action; and

16 wherein said agent is further
17 programmed to store said unique identifier in a restricted
18 intermediate database,
19 programmed to store said data type in said restricted intermediate
20 database,
21 programmed to issue said action command to perform said
22 action,
23 programmed to receive a response to said action command from
24 the database of interest, and
25 programmed to send said response to said network management
26 station.

1 16. The apparatus recited in claim 15, wherein
2 said action is a returning to said network management station of said
3 data item from the database of interest,
4 said action command is a GET command, and
5 said response is said data item.

1 17. The apparatus recited in claim 15, wherein
2 said action is a storing of said data item in the database of interest, and
3 said action command is a fourth SET command, and
4 said network management station is further programmed to create a
5 fourth object for indicating an actual value of said data item to be stored in the
6 database of interest.

1 18. An apparatus for accessing a database of interest, the apparatus
2 comprising:

3 a memory; and

4 at least one processor operatively coupled to said memory, said at least
5 one processor

6 programmed to create a first object for indicating a unique
7 identifier identifying a data item using a first SET
8 command,

9 programmed to store said unique identifier in said memory,
10 programmed to create a second object for indicating a data type
11 for said data item using a second SET command,

12 programmed to store said data type in said memory,

13 programmed to create a third object, using a third SET command,
14 for indicating an action to be performed on said data item
15 with respect to the database of interest,

16 programmed to issue an action command, using said stored
17 unique identifier, said stored data type, and said action, to
18 perform said action, and

19 programmed to receive a response to said action command.

1 19. The apparatus recited in claim 18, wherein
2 said action is a returning of said data item from the database of interest,
3 said action command is a GET command, and
4 said response is said data item.

1 20. The apparatus recited in claim 18, wherein
2 said action is a storing of said data item in the database of interest, and

3 said action command is a fourth SET command, and
4 said processor is further programmed to create a fourth object for
5 indicating an actual value of said data item to be stored in the database of
6 interest.

1 21. A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions for
2 performing a method of a management application accessing a database of
3 interest, the method comprising:

4 said management application creating a first object for indicating a
5 unique identifier identifying a data item wherein said creating said first object
6 uses a first SET command;

7 an agent storing said unique identifier in a restricted intermediate
8 database;

9 said management application creating a second object for indicating a
10 data type for said data item, said creating said second object including use of a
11 second SET command;

12 said agent storing said data type in said restricted intermediate database;

13 said management application creating a third object for indicating an
14 action to be performed on said data item with respect to the database of
15 interest, said creating said third object including use of a third SET command;

16 said agent issuing an action command to perform said action, wherein
17 said agent uses said stored unique identifier, said stored data type, and said
18 action;

19 said agent receiving a response to said action command from the
20 database of interest; and

21 said agent sending said response to said management application.